



**ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Police/Fire Training Room-Municipal Building**  
**January 13, 2010 4:30-6:30**

**Attending:**

**Commission Members:** Josh O'Conner, Dave Erb, Hanna Raskin, Tom Tomlin, J Neal Jackson, Paul Van Heden

**Staff:** Mariate Echeverry, Edna Johnson, Janet GeorgeMurr, Diane Ruggiero,

**Community members:** Heather Strassberg and Natalie Murdock of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization, Kristin Klemm, Sherry Vaughn, M. H. Churney

4:35 p.m.: Hanna opened the meeting.

**Agenda Amendments:** Add under New Business: bus passes.

**Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities:**

- Paul read the standards of procedures regarding public comment.

**December 9, 2009 Minutes Review:** Transit Commission as presented passed December 9, 2009 Minutes.

**Welcome Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment**

- Hanna welcomed the public with an introduction of each member of Transit Commission, staff and public. At this time, Hanna asked the public for any 3 minute pre-meeting comments and public did not respond.

**Introduction of the public:**

- Sherry Vaughn
- Kristin Klemm – health care provider for Sherry Vaughn. They have an opportunity to ride the bus a lot and since Sherry is handicapped, they have issues to discuss. Hanna replied that TC is always available to the public.

**Presentation by Land of Sky:** Health Strassberg and Natalie Murdock – please see attached PowerPoint Presentation.

**Update from Transit Commission Members Work and New Business:**

- **New Transit Commission Members:** Hanna announced Paul Van Heden and two other members would be joining Transit Commission. Since Josh's deployment to Iraq, Josh's position will be filled, and he will reapply for the position upon his return. Hanna also announced that TC has a new liaison, Gordon Smith and the new members are Georgia M. Shannon who is retired from the VA and Kevin Jenkins. Paul asked if TC has a vice-chair and if not, he would like to nominate Dave Erb. Dave declined and Hanna nominated Paul, Tom Tomlin seconded the motion and all were in favor. Hanna indicated that she will do the February agenda, but may turn this over to another TC member.
- **Ambassador Program:** Mariate stated Martha will add legal terminology to the policy and will have available to TC to review for February.
- **GPS/GLYMPSE:** Paul asked since there is no money involved, does Brett McCall see a profitable opportunity to advertise. TC decided to have a one month trial and Paul mentioned that if there is a profit that ATS should received a percentage. Paul questioned the phone distribution. Edna mentioned that she will need to meet with Brett McCall and asked if there is only one phone, one bus. Hanna is unclear on how the GLYMPSE is powered. Edna mentioned that some of the buses would be retired once the new buses arrive. Hanna mentioned that the big problem is the power. Edna recommended hooking the instrument to a battery i.e. the fareboxes. Mariate has concerns over the security issue. Edna asked if Mr. McCall could give a presentation on the use of the GLYMPSE. Hanna mentioned that Brett McCall would have a presentation in



February. At that point, TC could give the green light for a one month trial or discourage the use of GLYMPSE entirely. Mariate will check with Legal on liability. Dave suggested for Brett McCall to give a presentation to TC, but does this mean that Brett would have prior claim on GLYMPSE. Edna mentioned that the instrument would need to be mounted and will take some work and suggested placing the GLYMPSE on route to Haw Creek. Edna to meet with Brett on the use of the GLYMPSE. Hanna questioned where the money is coming from and profits. In addition, to present other alternatives with better instruments and opportunities. Paul stated that as long as Brett McCall it is up front regarding the profitability of this program, he is ok with GLYMPSE. Josh stated that to have a long term liability is to have a viable plan. Hanna stated that she would like to have a presentation next month and would like TC to endorse her support.

- **Presentation Schedule:** For February: Shannon Tuch from Planning, Diane Ruggiero from Parks and Rec; Brett McCall from GLYMPSE. Hanna mentioned that she would still like to have a Health Department presentation on hygiene. Paul mentioned that he is fine with list of presentations, but he would like to invite someone from Charlotte to speak on the quarter percent sales tax for April. Edna will email Charlotte Transit to see if they would come to Asheville for a presentation.
- **Transit Commission Retreat:** After a discussion among the TC members and staff on venues for the retreat, Paul moved to have the Asheville Design Center as the designated venue, which is a nominal fee of \$50. Mariate indicated that Transportation would pay since TC does not have a budget. Hanna inquired into having a facilitator at the retreat. Mariate will look into this and will seek authorization from Ken Putnam to supply lunch.
- **Annual Report:** Due January 31, 2010 and Ken Putnam will review the annual report first. Hanna has all the TC minutes of 2009. Josh asked to add to the report that TC staff helped with public input for Transit Master Plan and to add the induction packet; the mixer. Mariate mentioned to include AVAS, fareboxes; Hanna mentioned to include Transit 101. Hanna will prepare the annual report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Annual Passes:** New stickers for TC for 2010. The TC members will receive at the next February meeting, a February pass. Once the new annual swipe cards become available in March, and mailed to the TC members. Mariate stated that the completion of the installation of the fareboxes is scheduled in February and the March passes will be coded and swiped through the new fareboxes.

#### **Transit Master Plan (TMP):**

- Josh reported the Transit Master Steering Committee met on January 4. The staff prepared a report with no major changes. Mariate stated that she would send the summary to the TC members. Mariate stated that the TMP was discussed at the City Council Retreat.
- Staff Report from City Council Retreat – Mariate stated that Ken P. attended and multi-modal was discussed, which were two items of Cecil Bothwell's campaign.
- Next Steps will be a date assigned by City Council.

#### **Update from Staff:**

- **Weather Preparation** – Friday 12/18/09 City of Asheville (COA) decided to shut down due to the snow storm. Edna stated that Transit used staff cars to drive passengers home. Problem is the ice, which covered 200 miles of bus route roads. Saturday 12/19/09 – Transit was to re-open in the morning, but COA decided to shut down. Mariate mentioned that the snow routes are posted on the website; a press release and Operations contacted the media. Hanna suggested keeping the snow routes permanently on the website. Paul stated that before the end of this year, TMP would have route changes for snow days. Edna mentioned that the list might need to be "tweaked."
- Hanna asked, since the buses do not run on MLK holiday, could the union move their off day to another day. Edna stated the Transit Union Contract allows for 6 paid holidays, whereas normal businesses/agencies generally have around 10 to 11 holidays a year. Mariate stated Transit's contract with the Union will expire and First Transit will bring this up at negotiations. Paul asked if the First Transit's fees would change in accordance with the Union negotiations for fees. Mariate stated regardless what is negotiated with the Union, the fees with First Transit does not fluctuate. Edna stated that the Union has a separate contract for three



years.

- Public Art Project – Diane Ruggiero updated TC members:
  - Jury to meet next Saturday, January 16 in the morning.
  - Received ten submissions from artists as of this date.
  - Deadline is next Wednesday, January 20 and expects the responses to be overwhelming.
  - Public will have close involvement
  - Recent Diane received 6 to 10 calls from artists asking how to apply.
  - There is a strong demand and interest. Diane is expecting a large public participation this weekend.
  - Media has been very supportive
  - The magazine “Laurel” will be out in March.
  - Press release will be published at the end of the week (January 15)
  - Jury process will open to public involvement.
  - Strict art work guidelines.
  - Finalize on January 23, 2010 and location will be determined later. Possible locations: Steven Lee, Reed Center or one of the Rec Parks.
  - Winner will receive \$750.

**Budget:** Mariate stated that the City Manager is asking from each department for two options: 4% and 8% reduction in the next FY budget. One of the options is to cut bus service, as follows: evening service up to 8:30 pm – no gaps; cutting evening service and portions of Saturday service Route 4 and 8; jobs will also be cut. Mariate continued to say that it would be a financial hit if current service were cut. Not to mention health insurance and vehicle repair costs increasing as well. Mariate encourages TC to talk with Council on the budget and that the first budget proposal is in March. Tom Tomlin asked Mariate what the union demands and Hanna asked on how many passengers would be stranded without the budget. Routes that would be effective: 51, 52, 41, 46, 36, 38 part of 29.

**Consolidation Study:** Mariate stated that the Consolidation Study Steering Committee met with the consultants in December who conducted a rider survey. The next step would be to see what Council decides. Hanna mentioned that Rebecca Cherry from Cherry Consulting called her regarding the survey. Mariate mentioned the steering committee would meet two weeks from today, which would be Wednesday January 27, 2010.

**Meeting Summary:**

- Paul noticed that the TC transit experience is not off the agenda.
- Paul stated the need to discuss the quarter percent tax if TC would like to meet to discuss in pushing this agenda. Dave is interested in this issue and will send a notice to Hanna to discuss further.

**Public Statements:**

- Sherry Vaughn asked if the bus could come into the apartment complex off of Lee’s Creek Rd at Erwin Hills. Everyone in the apartment complex would purchase a bus pass. At this time, Sherry still drives downtown to catch the bus. Hanna mentioned that the TMP calls for more service, but passengers will have to walk to certain areas, since the routes have moved to major corridors. However, the City is working on street furniture that will be ADA compliant. Mariate suggested the paratransit service and Josh recommended the use of Park and Ride at Goodwill, which has a sidewalk.

**February Agenda:**

- Two Presentations – Brett McCall and Shannon Tuch
- Ambassador Program
- J Neal’s birthday.

6:27 p.m. Adjourned

# Asheville Transit System

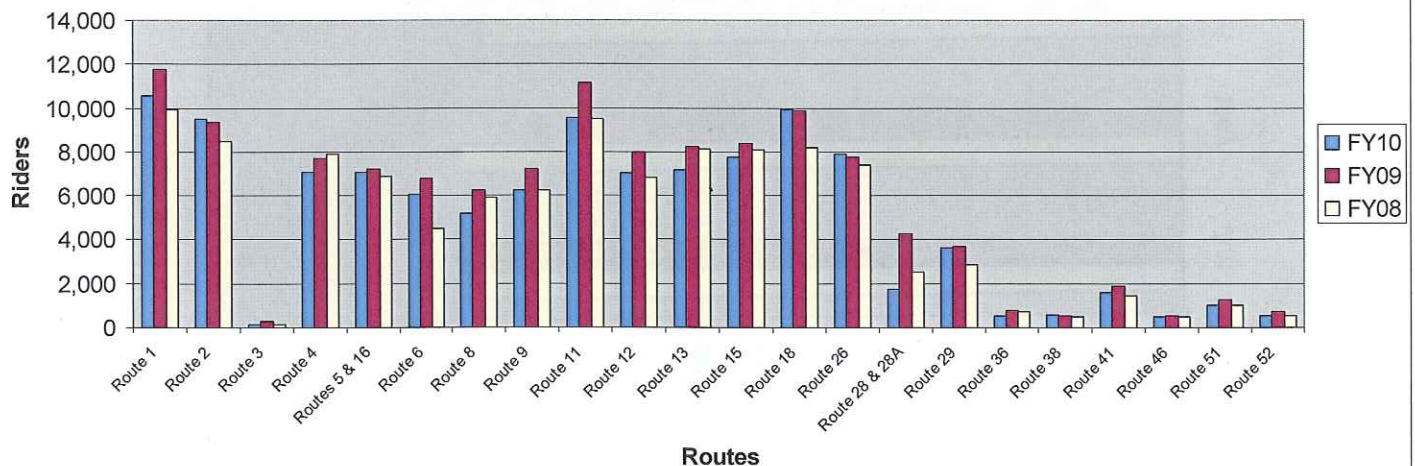
## Route Ridership-January, 2010

### Current Month

### Fiscal Year to Date

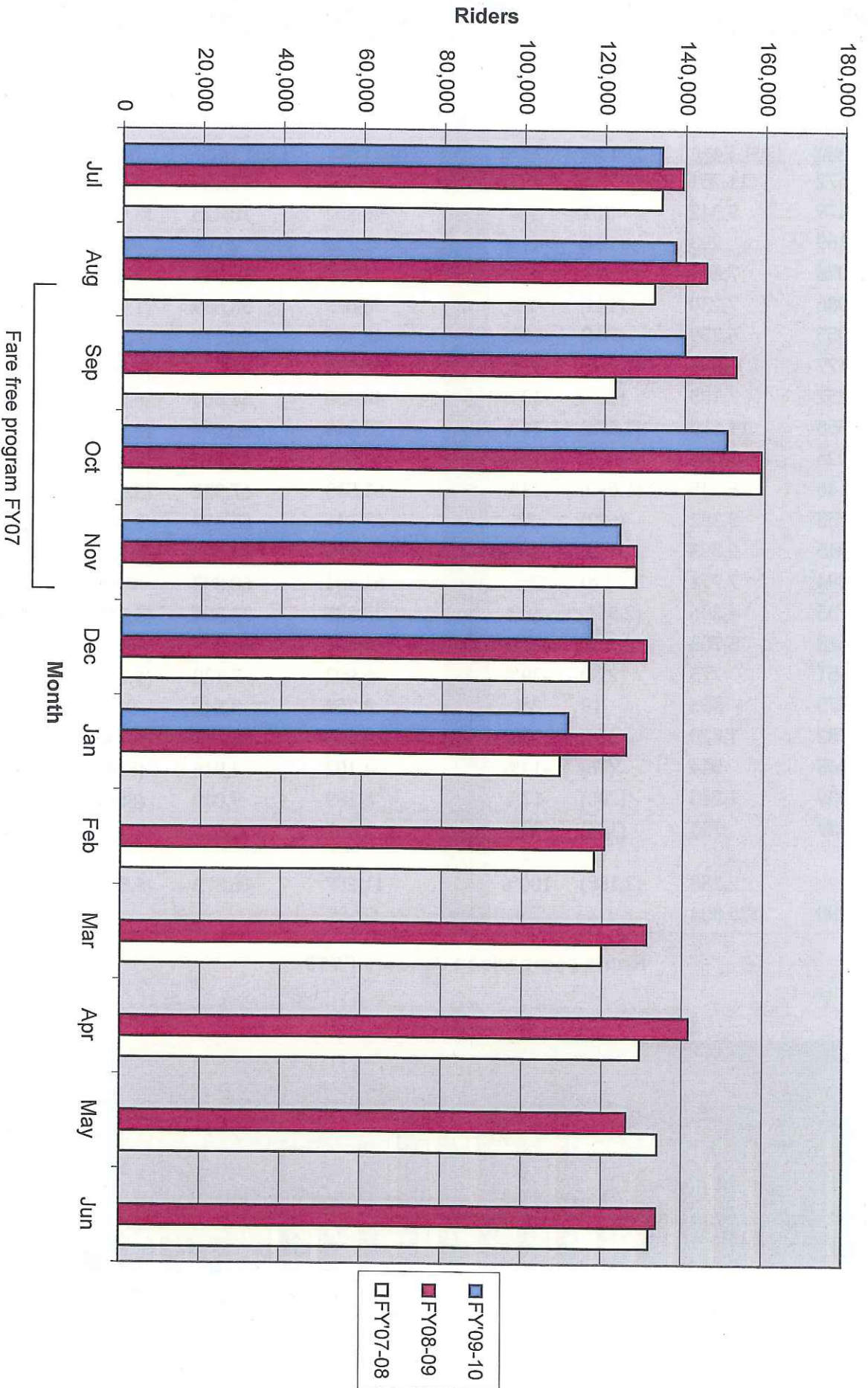
Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta
1	10,572	11,751	(1,179)	-10%	83,969	90,180	(6,211)	-7%
2	9,479	9,342	137	1%	66,467	70,425	(3,958)	-6%
3	169	293	(124)	-42%	1,732	2,708	(976)	-36%
4	7,078	7,687	(609)	-8%	57,986	56,746	1,240	2%
5 & 16	7,086	7,230	(144)	-2%	56,679	58,659	(1,980)	-3%
6	6,055	6,759	(704)	-10%	48,587	56,117	(7,530)	-13%
8	5,177	6,230	(1,053)	-17%	43,249	52,652	(9,403)	-18%
9	6,252	7,195	(943)	-13%	48,480	54,500	(6,020)	-11%
11	9,558	11,130	(1,572)	-14%	73,919	80,874	(6,955)	-9%
12	7,025	8,003	(978)	-12%	56,961	61,064	(4,103)	-7%
13	7,146	8,245	(1,099)	-13%	61,513	67,322	(5,809)	-9%
15	7,755	8,382	(627)	-7%	68,211	65,429	2,782	4%
18	9,945	9,893	52	1%	71,978	73,502	(1,524)	-2%
26	7,894	7,774	120	2%	61,684	60,892	792	1%
28	1,735	4,286	(2,551)	-60%	25,085	33,304	(8,219)	-25%
29	3,618	3,703	(85)	-2%	35,223	33,273	1,950	6%
36	551	775	(224)	-29%	5,902	7,130	(1,228)	-17%
38	575	556	19	3%	4,754	3,842	912	24%
41	1,582	1,870	(288)	-15%	14,150	15,580	(1,430)	-9%
46	468	544	(76)	-14%	4,102	4,916	(814)	-17%
51	1,039	1,245	(206)	-17%	8,189	9,049	(860)	-10%
52	539	723	(184)	-25%	4,497	5,920	(1,423)	-24%
54		2,188	(2,188)	100%	11,297	16,873	(5,576)	-33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,298</b>	<b>125,804</b>						

Route comparison January FY10

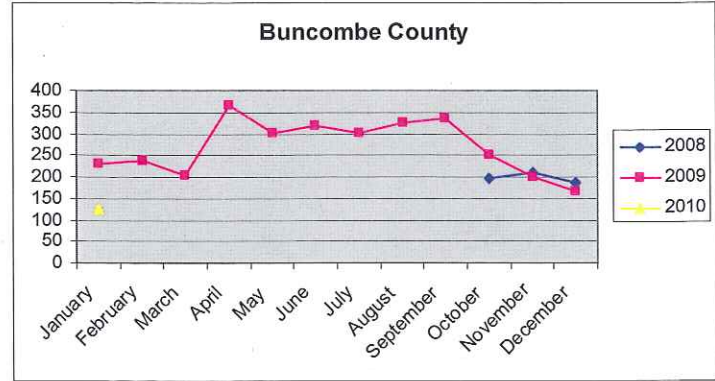




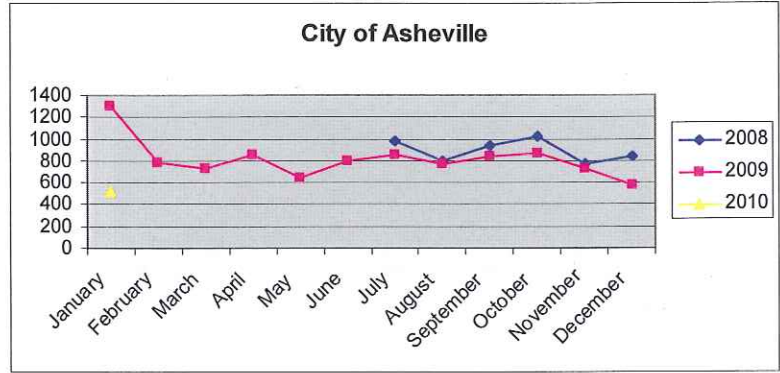
# Ridership Comparison



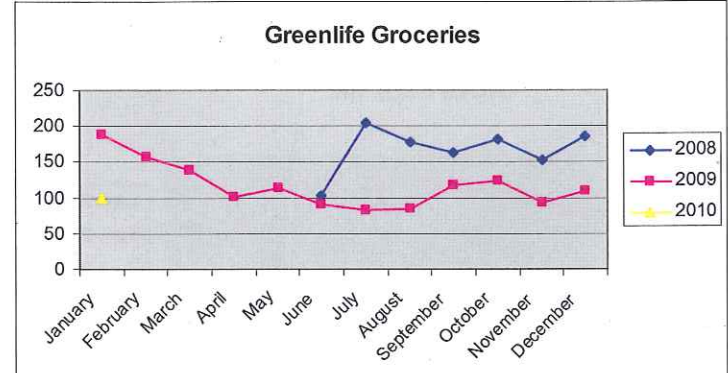
Buncombe County			
	2008	2009	2010
January		231	127
February		236	
March		204	
April		366	
May		302	
June		319	
July		301	
August		324	
September		334	
October	195	251	
November	209	199	
December	187	165	
Year Totals	591	3232	127
Overall Totals	3950		



City of Asheville			
	2008	2009	2010
January		1306	515
February		779	
March		733	
April		850	
May		643	
June		793	
July	976	857	
August	797	774	
September	940	844	
October	1018	873	
November	770	735	
December	835	575	
Year Totals	5336	9762	515
Overall Totals	15613		

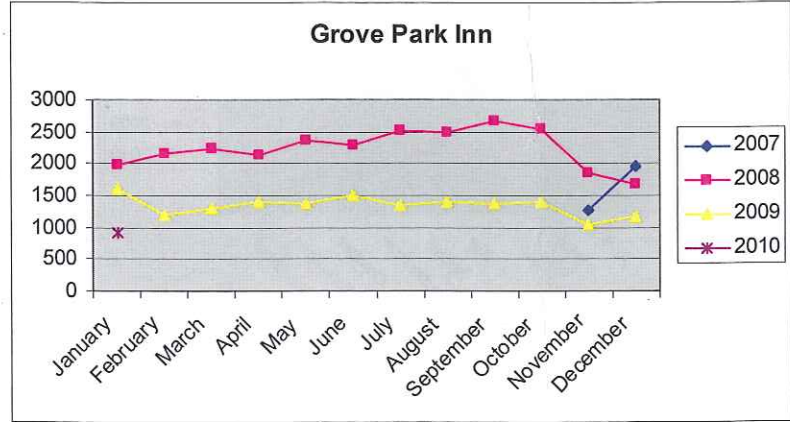


Greenlife			
	2008	2009	2010
January		188	100
February		156	
March		138	
April		101	
May		113	
June	103	90	
July	205	82	
August	177	84	
September	164	117	
October	181	125	
November	152	93	
December	185	109	
Year Totals	1167	1396	100
Overall Totals	2663		





<i>Grove Park Inn</i>				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
January		1993	1592	913
February		2156	1198	
March		2225	1305	
April		2128	1386	
May		2356	1366	
June		2298	1509	
July		2520	1345	
August		2494	1387	
September		2659	1376	
October		2552	1410	
November	1268	1863	1042	
December	1969	1676	1167	
Year Totals	3237	26920	16083	913
Overall Totals	47153			



<i>UNCA</i>					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January		2433	3140	4777	2020
February		2860	4041	4562	
March		3536	3346	3554	
April		3163	3906	3891	
May		2010	2870	1803	
June		1529	2882	1253	
July		1816	2692	1677	
August		3611	5336	3118	
September		4512	6755	3897	
October		4881	6169	3935	
November	1285	3452	4444	3234	
December	1754	2443	3649	2124	
Year Totals	3039	36246	49230	37825	2020
Overall Totals	128360				

